Kevin Serrano July 21, 2010

Chuck’s Class Afternoon

*The 198O New York Yankees*

The year 198O, not the best year for the New York Yankees. The Yankees were very close to winning the playoffs, until they lost to the Kansas City Royals. (Chass, pg.15) They were the most anticipated to advance to the World Series. But during 198O many things were happing, for example the Strike was starting to develop; and also free agency took full effect. The 198O Yankees did better as a team after George Steinbrenner took advantage of free agency.

Free agency started to take full effect, and once it started to raise the Yankees manager *George Steinbrenner* took advantage of it. Unlike other manager`s George offered a lot of money to those on the free agent list. Many like Catfish Hunter, and Reggie Jackson were offered a boatload of money. (Joe, Was Steinbrenner Just Lucky?)Players now get more control over their baseball careers. Before free agency players would sign a contract and they would belong to a team. It’s like selling your soul, and the only way to get out of the team would be if the team was to fire you.

In 1981 all players from the MLB went on strike, but in 198O everybody prepared. This strike was risky; if players went on strike their chances of getting fired were very high. So it was either the strike and maybe succeed, or get fired. (Eskenazi, pg.21) But at the time these players didn’t care, they had a goal that they wanted to accomplish. That goal was to not let owners have total control over them the players. Owner’s wanted to gain the control they had before free agency. That if a player signed a contract the owner’s would have all the control over them. About $146 million was lost in player salaries, and owner’s lost $72 million.

George Steinbrenner was a very smart man when it came to controlling his team. Before George signed up as the Yankee owner the Yankees were a horrible team. Even their owner **CBS** didn’t want them. But when George got a hold of them, he turned the team around for the better. Ironically George turned the team around as the Yankee owner when he originally was going to buy the Cleveland Indian’s offering $8.6 million, but their manager **Vernon Stouffer** was drunk and turned down the offer. (Nocera, July 16th 2010) So if *Mr. Stouffer* was not to be drunk George Steinbrenner would not have maybe been the Yankee Manager.

The year 198O was not the best year for the New York Yankees. Many events that occurred in 1980 that foreshadowed the Yankees season. The events that happened in 1980 changed baseball, like free agency. Now players had as much control over their contracts as their owners do. Unlike before when you belong to the team and the manager could do whatever they want with you. The 198O Yankees did better as a team after George Steinbrenner took advantage of free agency.

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